

## CONGRESSIONAL.

From the proceeding of the House of Representatives on the 11th inst.]

The consideration of the following preamble and resolution was then announced:

Whereas, Major Gen. Halleck, of the Western Department, has issued an order prohibiting negroes from coming within the lines of our army, and evading within the lines of our army, and evading under the protection of our troops; and

Whereas, a different practice and policy prevail in other Departments, by the direct sanction of the Administration; and whereas said order is cruel and injurious, and in the judgment of this House, based upon no military necessity, therefor;

*Resolved*, that the President be respectfully requested to direct Gen. Halleck to recall said order, or cause it to conform to the practice in other Departments of the army.

Mr. Stevens, (Rep.) of Pennsylvania, said: I think, sir, we ought to proceed at once with the consideration of the resolution. If it is to have any good effect the sooner it is considered the better, and that it will have a good effect I think I will show. We all know before the issuing of this order that the successor of Gen. Fremont, more for the purpose of hunting down Gen. Fremont, than for any other cause, ordered all the slaves received by Gen. Fremont within our lines to be excluded therefrom and returned to their masters, and that in future no more fugitives should be received within our lines.— This order was given under pretense of preventing the fugitives from conveying intelligence as spies from our camps to the enemy; but any man who reads that order will see at once that this is a very bad pretense indeed, and could not deceive a child. That slaves will run away from their masters no one doubts, but that there is any danger of their returning as spies and giving intelligence to the enemy seems incredible. All information on this subject shows that fugitive slaves never desire to return to their masters, and, in addition, that they are true, loyal and faithful to those who shelter them. As I understand it, the order excluding slaves from labor on our lines and returning them to their masters was inaugurated by Major General McClellan while he commanded in Western Virginia. Soon after this came the magnanimous proclamation of Gen. Dix, who when he sent down an army to the Eastern shore of Virginia, amidst none but secessionists, ordered his generals to arrest any fugitive slaves that might flee to them for safety and return them to their masters. With reference to the army of the Potowmack the same rule prevails. Upon one occasion two slaves came within our lines, who had found two or three of our wounded soldiers who had crept into the bushes and escaped the enemy, and saved their lives, and after aiding them and attending them till they were restored to their friends, these fugitives were ordered by Gen. Kelly to be restored to their masters.— [Mr. Stevens was here repeating a mere rumor to which currency was given by the New York Tribune.]

Mr. Lovejoy, (Rep.) of Ill.— The statement was that the masters were secessionists at that.

Mr. Stevens: So it was, but I don't care whether they were or not; there is no precedent for this piece of cold-blooded atrocity in history. In my judgment all these acts are a disgrace to the profession of arms, and if orders for this line of conduct emanated from the commanding Generals they deserve to have the epaulettes stricken from their shoulders. If they came from higher authority I have only to say, "God forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Mr. Lovejoy: I would have refrained from addressing the House on this subject, as anything I might say might be attributed to fanaticism or one-idealism, but for the last remark of the gentleman from Pennsylvania. Now, it is my honest conviction that these orders are given or are countenanced by the Generals themselves, and they have no authority for issuing them from the Administration. Why the President does not cashier them as I would (laughter) I don't know; but I don't believe that he gives them any authority directly or indirectly, to proceed in this inhuman, shameful manner. It is the concurrent testimony of every General in the field that I have conversed with, that the fugitive slaves never returned as spies. General McDowell, before the fatal battle of Bull Run, was in the habit

of inquiring from the slaves he met with reference to the position and movements of the enemy, and the topography of the country around them. I am satisfied that our most reliable scouts, and those who have given the best information on all needful points have been runaway slaves; and it is most shameful, mean and contemptible for Major Generals or other officers to surrender these men, or to drive them from our camps, or to attempt to slander a race already disgraced.

Mr. Blair: Great injustice has been done Major General Halleck in this matter. The gentleman (Stevens) states that Major General Halleck had ordered fugitive slaves to be returned to their masters.

Mr. Stevens: Such is the purport of the orders referred to—that no more runaways should be received within the lines and those who had already sought shelter there should be expelled. Mr. Blair: From his camp?

Mr. Stevens: From his lines—that was the order.

Mr. Blair: I had a conversation with Major General Halleck about this very order, for I also misapprehended it, and I admit it is liable to be misunderstood on the point in question.

General Halleck told me that he had no idea of doing anything contrary to the law and policy of the government on this subject.

Mr. Stevens: Did I correctly state the subject of the order?

Mr. Blair: Yes, but not as first written. The gentleman has stated what is not in the order, not, I presume, from unjust motives to General Halleck, but the statement was nevertheless a gross injustice to General Halleck. So far as it went to show that it required the return of fugitive slaves. Nothing of the kind was in the order, and more than that—

Mr. Lovejoy: Whatever the intention was we have learned from a gentleman from that State now in the army, that under the pretense or color of this order, fugitives are hunted all through the lines, and actually taken away from individuals who had them under their protection, and delivered, under General Halleck's order, to those who claimed them.

Mr. Blair, I tell the House and the country that I know that General Halleck gave an order to discharge some fugitive slaves from prison, and allowed them to go about their business, on my application; and I know, too, that whatever may have been done under pretense or color of that order, it was not the intention of the General that this charge against him should have been made, and he never gave an order with such an intention.— I will state what passed between the General and myself on that point.

Mr. Lovejoy: I say that slaves have been delivered up by the officers of the army under that order; and if the General is so unfortunate as to be unable to write the English language correctly, it is his fault. But the thing, at all events, is done.

Mr. Ashley (rep.) of Ohio: That is a common misfortune with the officers of the army.

Mr. Blair: I told Gen. Halleck that I believed the order would be misunderstood; that it would be construed as it has been. He then and there told me that he had no idea of constraining improperly the laws of Congress or the policy of the administration with regard to this subject. His simple object was to exclude from his lines, or rather his camps, and not his lines, which extend over a wide district of country, persons who might carry information to the enemy. At Cairo it was the habit for slaves and others to come from Kentucky and the lower part of Missouri and to enter the camps to sell vegetables, and then to go back, when, if they fell into the hands of the enemy, they would give information of the condition and strength and movements of the army, and he desired to put a stop to this, and thence the cause of the publication of the order. He said, moreover, that he would not only exclude fugitive slaves from his camp, but everybody, white and black. He made no distinction; but as he said, the measure was demanded as a mere military precaution necessary to the safety and discipline of his camps.

Mr. Fouke (opp.) of Ill.—

Having served with the army, and being stationed at Cairo at the time this order was made I will state that the soldiers and officers there looked upon the order as most wise and salutary. The allusion made by the member from Pennsylvania as to the loyalty and fidelity of the slaves is wholtnutre. I myself was misled by false representations by a slave on the 7th of November last.— And my regiment were led into an ambuscade by one of these runaway slaves. Every word said about these blacks is untrue as to their fidelity and loyalty.— I state facts as they exist, and the whole army will stand by General Halleck to the last upon that order. I repeat what has been said by the gentleman (Mr. Blair), that the blacks did come to Cairo and into the camp to sell produce, and on their return communicated the situation of our army. They did this at Paducah, also, and at other camps. These facts I know and every man in the army there can substantiate what I say. I sent one of these spies myself to General McClellan, who, I know, had revealed the position of the camp when we were surrounded by forty or fifty thousand of the enemy.

Mr. Lovejoy—I do not doubt the facts stated by my colleague, but I know this, that the concurrent testimony of Generals Lane, Prentiss and Pope, and other generals, is in contravention of the statement that these blacks should be excluded from the lines of the army; that is, so far as general principles go. I would like to ask my colleague what he did with the negro who betrayed him?

A Member: Administered the oath to him. (Laughter.)

Mr. Fouke: He was sent to and questioned by Gen. McClellan, I don't know what further was done with him, and I had no time to look after him.— If my colleague paid less attention to these negroes, and devoted it more to the present condition of the country, he would do a great deal better, and might help to bring the war to a speedier conclusion. [Laughter, and cries of "good, good," from members.]

Mr. Blair: I have already stated what General Halleck told me was the object of the order. He further told me that he intended to use the slaves if he could do so with advantage to the country; that he intended, whenever he found them, to seize the slaves of the enemy, but he did not intend that this class of persons or others unauthorized, should come into his camp.

The political department of the paper will be conducted, as heretofore, by B. F. Diggs, Esq.

All we ask is your generous support. L. G. DYNES.

— We have only room to say that Dr. Beverly has received all of the popular monthlies for January.

LATEST NEWS. •

A fight in Western Virginia resulted in the killing of about 200 Rebels, and taking 30 prisoners. Our loss about thirty killed and wounded. A fire, destroying about \$7,000,000 worth of property, is reported by the papers of that city. A fight is momentarily expected in Missouri.— Both forces are advancing in Kentucky. You will find all the important news of Congress in the discussion which is published in this paper.

England, if newspaper accounts are to be credited is out of humor because of the arrest of Mason and Slidell, and task of making a fuss about it. We have as yet no news on that score. She may threaten and bluster, but she will be slow to try her luck a third time with her full grown child.

Confiscation Bill.

We publish to-day the Confiscation bill introduced into Congress, by Mr. Bingham, of Ohio. From all the indications that we can gather it will become a law. That or something similar will become a law. Gurley's bill is four times longer than Bingham's, entering into all the details as to how the property shall be disposed of.

Mr. Bingham's Confiscation Bill.

The following is the Confiscation bill introduced into the House of Representatives by Mr. Bingham, of Ohio:

A BILL TO FORGE THE PROPERTY AND SLAVES OF PERSONS WHO SHALL ENGAGE IN OR ABET ARMED REBELLION AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That if any person or persons, within any State or Territory of the United States, after the taking effect of this act, shall engage in armed rebellion against the Government of the United States, or shall aid or abet such rebellion, all the property, moneys, stocks, credits, and effects of such person or persons are hereby declared forfeited to the Government of the United

States, and the same are hereby declared lawful subjects of prize and capture wherever found, and the President of the United States shall cause the same to be seized, confiscated and condemned.

Sec. 1. And be it further enacted, That such prizes and capture shall be condemned in the District Court of the United States having jurisdiction of the amount, or in admiralty in any district in which the same may be seized, or into which the same may be taken and proceedings first instituted.

Sec. 2. That we endorse and approve of the resolution offered by the Hon. John J. Crittenden, and adopted almost unanimously by the present Congress at its special session, on the 22d day of July last.

The Convention then appointed a Central Committee for the county.

On motion, it was

Ordered, That the proceedings of this Convention be published in the Indiana State Sentinel and each of the papers in Randolph county be requested to copy them.

MILES HUNT, President.

JONAS DIELH, Secretary.

HUNTSVILLE LOCALS.

SUBROSA, - - - - - CONTRIBUTOR.

Thursday, - - - - - December 19.

1862.

From and after the first day of January, 1862, the JOURNAL will be published and under the entire control of the undersigned. We shall make all necessary improvements to place the JOURNAL at the head of the list of number one weekly newspapers. The embarrassments arising from the war excitement has operated very heavily upon not only this, but all other local papers. But we are gratified to know that the people are becoming more than ever convinced of not only the duty, but the importance of sustaining a paper at home, from which they may get the home as well as the foreign news. We have full confidence that every laudable object will be successful if followed honestly and with energy, and with this belief we have undertaken the publication of the JOURNAL, believing that we can do both patrons and ourself good.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That every person who shall engage in or abet such rebellion as aforesaid, shall forfeit all claim which such person may have to the service or labor of any slave or slaves, and the slave or slaves of such person shall be and are hereby declared freemen, and forever relieved from such servitude, any thing in the laws of the United States, or any State, to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That every person shall be arrested or surrendered as a fugitive slave upon the order of any person in the military or naval service of the United States.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That no person shall be arrested or surrendered as a fugitive slave upon the order of any person in the military or naval service of the United States.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That a committee of one from each township be appointed to select five delegates and five contingent delegates to represent Randolph county in the Democratic State Convention on the 1st of January next.

The committee appointed consisted of the following gentlemen: Jere Smith, Daniel B. Miller, David Heaston, Joseph Crouse and Jesse Stick.

The committee appointed to select delegates through Dr. Stick reported that they had selected delegates and contingent delegates as follows:

Delegates—Daniel B. Miller, David Heaston, Wm. P. Deboth, Joseph Crouse and Miles Hunt.

Contingents—John B. Clapp, A. F. Teal, Thos. J. Mason, W. C. Hendricks and Richard Jones.

On motion, Miles Hunt was chosen President and John Dielh Secretary.

On motion of Dr. Jesse Stick, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of one from each township be appointed to select five delegates and five contingent delegates to represent Randolph county in the Democratic State Convention on the 1st of January next.

We think that the Teachers and friends of Education in Westerville, and in adjoining Townships also, might derive a great deal of benefit from a Teachers' Conference or Association. Let their meetings be held in different parts of the Township, and their object be the advancement of educational interests, in every possible manner. What say you, friends of Education? We hope you will all say ay, and immediately go to work in the matter.

The committee was appointed and re-acted.

On motion of the Hon. Jeremiah Smith, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the feelings of the convention.

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